



MYNDIGHETEN FÖR
FAMILJERÄTT OCH
FÖRÄLDRASKAPSTÖD

Statistics on family law 2024

Dnr AD 2024–933, 2025-06-03

The Family Law and Parental Support Authority (MFoF) is responsible for the official statistics within family law.

The statistics are collected from Sweden's municipalities via a web survey provided by Statistics Sweden.

Collection occurs once a year and refers to the previous year. The statistics are available on MFoF's website, together with the survey, technical report, quality declaration, etc. This fact sheet summarizes parts of the statistics for 2024 and is described in comparison to previous years. The results are reported at national level and are stated in total number. Some results are also reported in number per 10,000 inhabitants.

Statistics on family law for 2024 show, among other things, the following:

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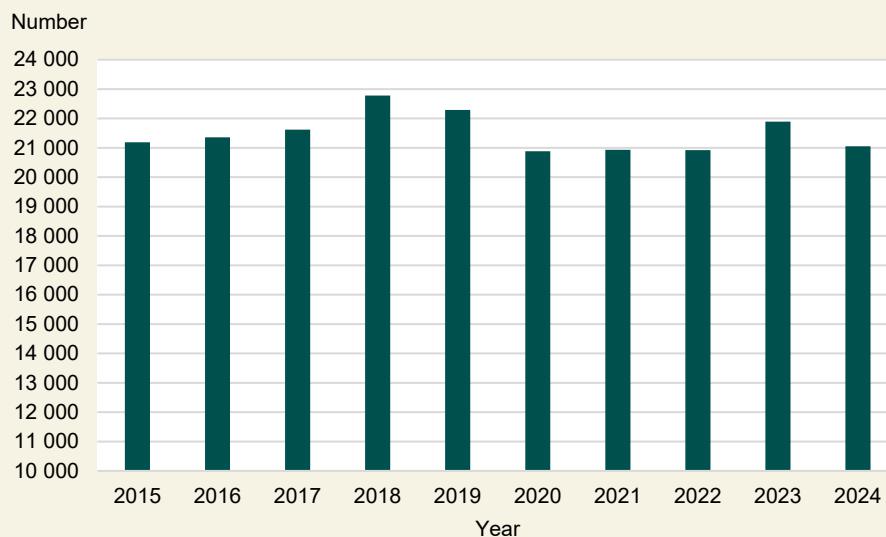


The number of children affected by mediation talks has decreased compared to the previous year

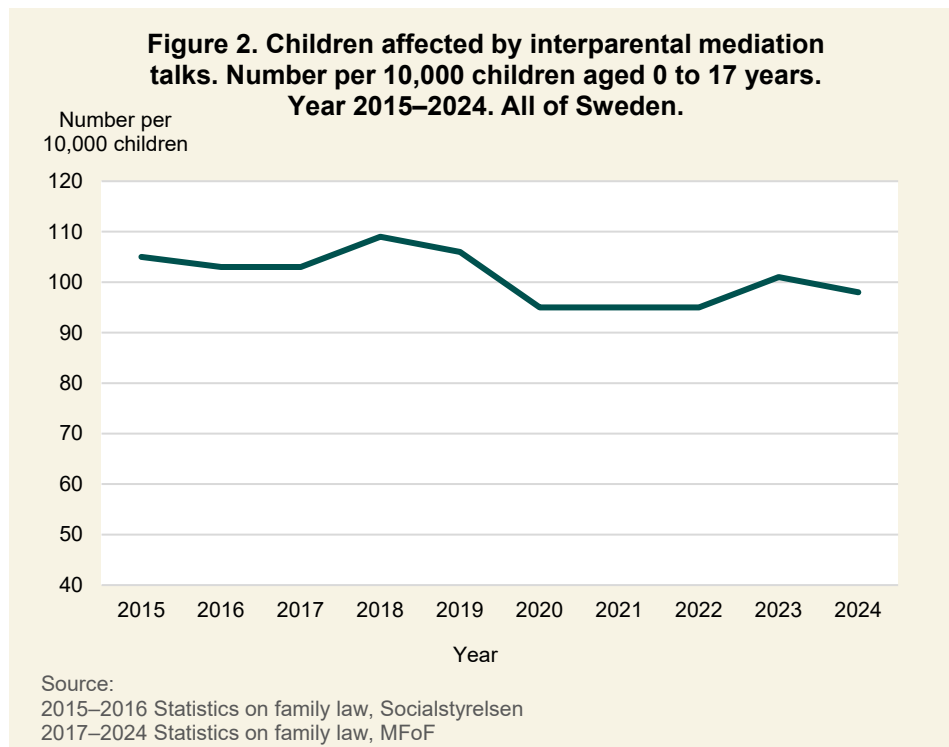
The purpose of mediation talks is to assist the parents in reaching an agreement regarding the custody, residence of, and access to, a child. Mediation talks can be arranged at the request of the parents or be initiated by a court.

In 2024, the number of children aged 0–17 years whose parents participated in mediation talks was 21,052. Of these, 807 were initiated by court action. Statistics for the last ten-year period show that the number of children affected by mediation talks ranged between 21,000 and 23,000 (Figure 1). Figure 2 shows the number of children affected per 10,000 children between 0 and 17 years of age. This number ranged between 95–109 in the last ten years. Between 2020–2022 the number has been at its lowest, which may have been an effect of the covid-19 pandemic.

Figure 1. Number of children affected by interparental mediation talks. Year 2015–2024. All of Sweden.



Source:
2015–2016 Statistics on family law, Socialstyrelsen
2017–2024 Statistics on family law, MFoF



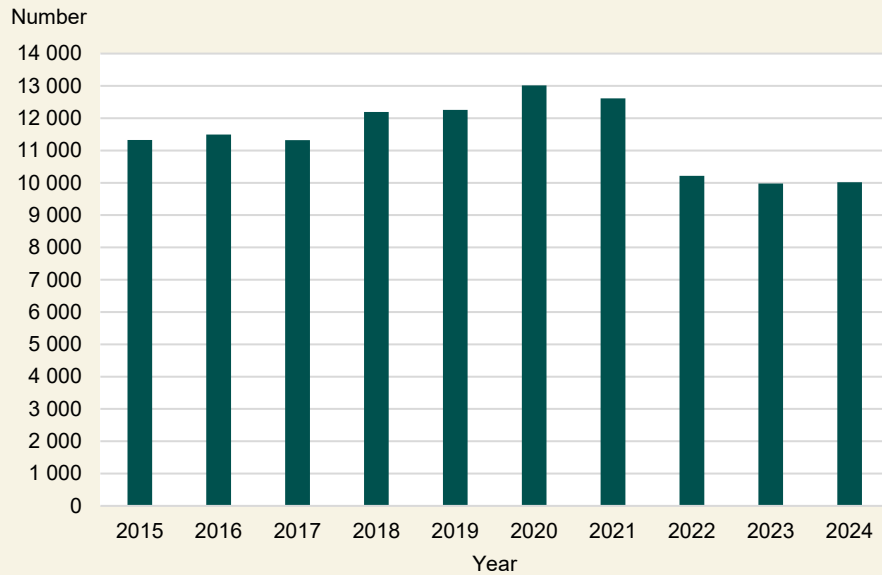
The number of children in retrieval of information requests remains at the same level

Before a court makes an interim decision regarding custody, residence and access, the court can request a retrieval of information, also known as expedited information, from the social welfare board.

In 2024 there were requests for retrieval of information for 10,020 children aged 0–17 years (Figure 3), which corresponded to 46 children per 10,000. The number of children affected by retrieval requests thus remains at the same level as the previous year. Statistics over the last ten years show that the number of children in requests for retrieval of information have been lowest during the last three years (Figure 4).

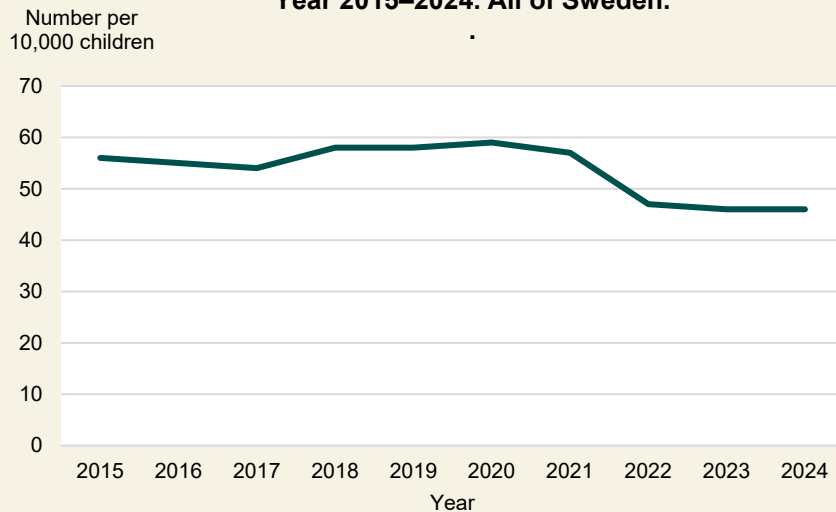


Figure 3. Number of children affected by information retrieval. Year 2015–2024. All of Sweden.



Source:
2015–2016 Statistics on family law, Socialstyrelsen
2017–2024 Statistics on family law, M FoF

Figure 4. Children affected by information retrieval. Number per 10,000 children aged 0–17 years. Year 2015–2024. All of Sweden.



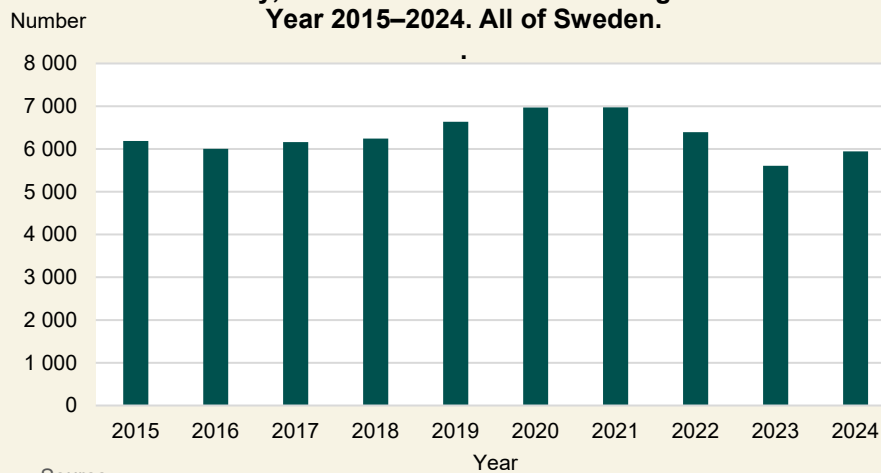
Source:
2015–2016 Statistics on family law, Socialstyrelsen
2017–2024 Statistics on family law, M FoF



The number of children in investigations involving custody, residence and access has increased since the previous year

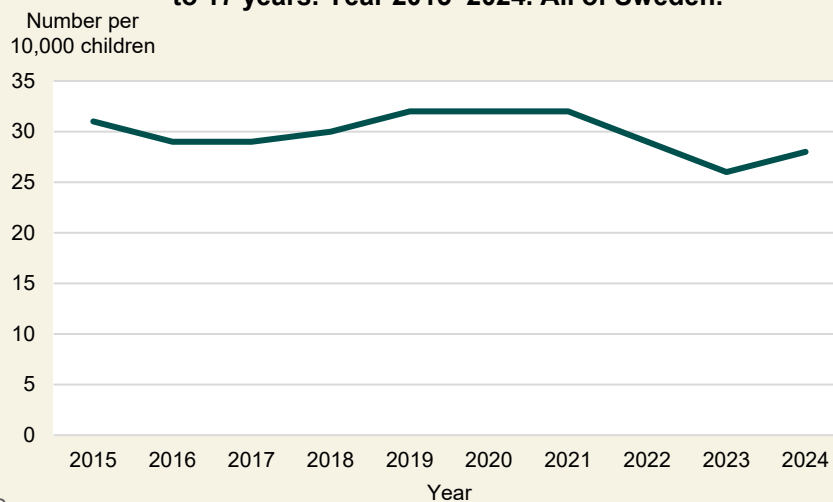
In 2024, a total of 5,944 children aged 0–17 years were subject to investigations of custody, residence and access, which is slightly more children than in 2023 (Figure 5). The number of children per 10,000 in the age group 0–17 corresponded to 28 children in 2024, compared with 26 during the previous year. However, over the past 10 years, the number of children has been at its lowest during the last two years (Figure 6).

Figure 5. Number of children, aged 0–17 years, affected by custody, residence and access investigations. Year 2015–2024. All of Sweden.



Source:
2015–2016 Statistics on family law, Socialstyrelsen
2017–2024 Statistics on family law, MFoF

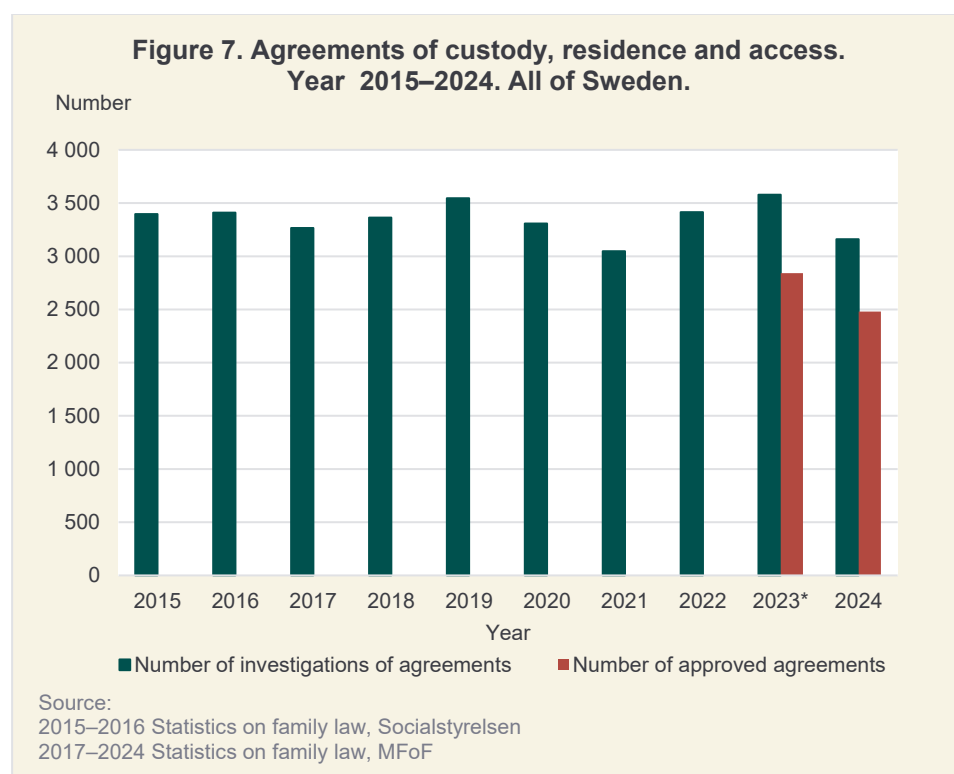
Figure 6. Children affected by custody, residence, and access investigations. Number per 10,000 children aged 0 to 17 years. Year 2015–2024. All of Sweden.



Source:
2015–2016 Statistics on family law, Socialstyrelsen
2017–2024 Statistics on family law, MFoF

The number of agreements of custody, residence and access has decreased

In 2024, a total of 3,160 investigations of agreements regarding custody, residence and access were carried out (Figure 7) which is around 400 investigations less than in 2023. Of the 3,160 investigations during 2024, 2,480 agreements were approved, which corresponds to 78%. This is approximately the same proportion as was approved in 2023 (79%), although the number of investigations of agreements was higher that year.



* In 2023, the formulation in the survey was reworked to clarify that 'the number of agreements' refers to 'the number of investigations of agreements'. Also, 'the number of approved agreements' was placed as a sub-question. The number of approved agreements is being published from the year 2023.

The number of certificates to parents participates in information meeting remains at the same level

Since 2022 the municipalities have been responsible for offering an information meeting to parents who are considering going to court with conflicts over custody, residence and access. It is also required that any parent who wishes to initiate court proceedings regarding a dispute must have first taken part in an information meeting.

The Act on Information Meetings was introduced with the best interests of the child in mind, and with the hope that in many cases the information meeting will help parents avoid going to court. The aim of the meeting is to inform parents about the options for finding consensual solutions in matters of custody, residence and access. The meeting can be held jointly with both parents or separately. The social welfare board issues a certificate to parents who participated in an information meeting.

In 2024, a total of 10,923 certificates were issued among the country's municipalities. Of these, 88% related to individual information meetings and 11% to joint information meetings. The number of certificates was about the same as the previous year, when 10,861 certificates were issued of which 84% related to individual information meetings and 14% to joint information meetings (Table 1).

Statistics about information meetings are not included in the official statistics on family law before year 2023.

Table 1.

Year	Number of certificates	Certificates prompted by individual information meeting	Certificates prompted by joint information meeting	Information not available
2024	10 923	88%	11%	1%
2023	10 861	84%	14%	2%

Source: Official statistics on family law, MFoF

Since the information meetings were introduced, there are no clear patterns in the statistics on family law. In the years 2022–2023 the statistics show a decrease regarding the number of children who are affected by retrieval of information and investigations concerning custody, residence and access. However, statistics for the year 2024 do not show the same downward trend. In addition, statistics for 2024 show that the number of children affected by mediation talks and the number of approved agreements has decreased since the previous year. The statistics need to be monitored over time, to continue analyse whether the information meeting is having the effects intended by the legislators.

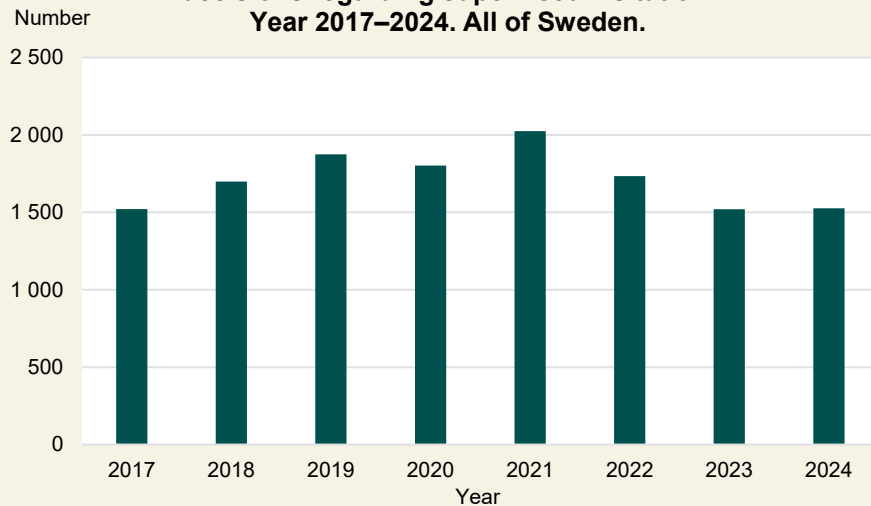
The number of children in decisions regarding supervised remain at the same level

In 2024, there were 1,526 children aged 0–17 years affected by decisions regarding supervised visitations (Figure 8). The number of children per 10,000¹ corresponded to 7 in 2024, and therefore remain at the same level as the previous year (Figure 9). Statistics over the last eight years show an upward trend in the years 2017–2021, after which the number decreased in 2022–2023, and then stagnated at the latest measurement.

¹ Calculated using data on children 0–17 years in the population, year 2024. Source: Statistics Sweden (SCB), Statistical database, Population. Available via www.statistikdatabasen.scb.se

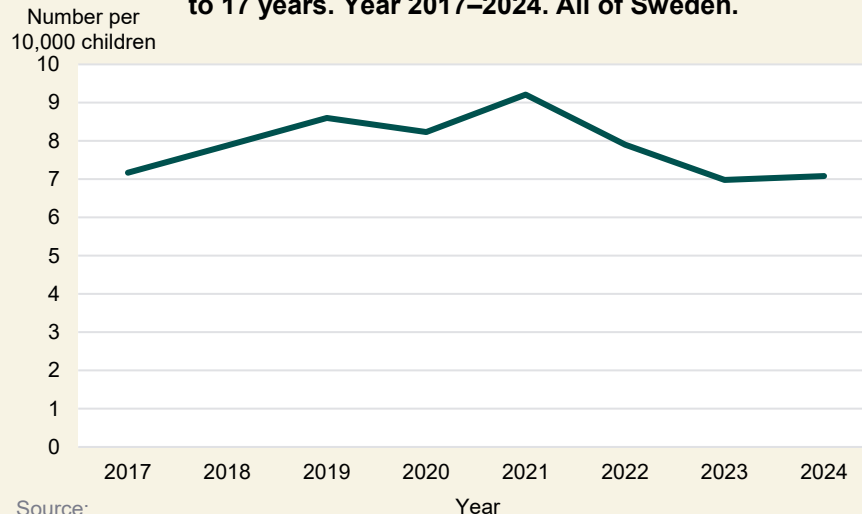


Figure 8. Number of children, 0–17 years, affected by decisions regarding supervised visitation. Year 2017–2024. All of Sweden.



Source:
2017–2024 Statistics on family law, MFFS

Figure 9. Children affected by decisions regarding supervised visitation. Number per 10,000 children aged 0 to 17 years. Year 2017–2024. All of Sweden.



Source:
2017–2024 Statistics on family law, MFFS

The number of home study investigations continues to decrease

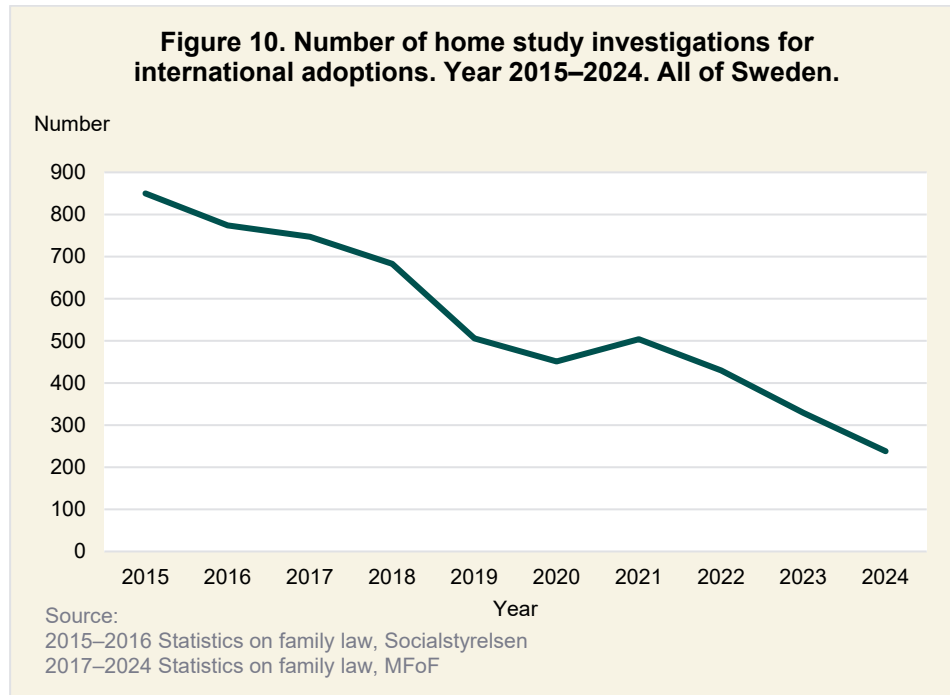
Before an international adoption can take place, the person wishing to adopt must apply to the social welfare board for consent to adopt. A home study investigation serves as a basis for the social welfare board to decide on the applicant's suitability as an adoptive parent.

The number of home study investigations has decreased significantly over time. Statistics over the last ten years, 2015–2024, show that the number of study investigations has decreased from 850 to 238, representing a 72%



decrease (Figure 10). Compared with earlier year the decrease is even bigger. For example, in 2000 there were 1,830 study investigations carried out, and in 2010 there 1,483 investigations².

Of the home study investigations carried out in 2024, 19 investigations resulted in a refusal to grant consent.



The number of paternity and parenthood investigations by social welfare boards continues to decrease

When an unmarried person gives birth to a child, the parenthood of the other parent must be established through confirmation or a court judgement. The social welfare boards are obligation to investigate who the child's other parent is. Since 2022, however, parents are enabled to acknowledge their parenthood themselves and to report joint custody, via an e-service at the Swedish Tax Agency. As a result, the number of investigations of parenthood by social welfare boards had decreased drastically.

In the years 2010–2021, approximately 60,000 paternities were established via social welfare boards. In 2024, the number of established paternities was 9,007, of which 71 % reported joint custody. With regard to parenthood, the 2024 statistics show that there were 212 cases of parenthood determined via social welfare boards, of which 69 % reported joint custody. Statistics on parenthood were not published before the year 2022.

² Statistics on family law, Socialstyrelsen. Available at www.socialstyrelsen.se

Table 2.

	Number of paternities established via social welfare boards	Number of joint custody	Number of parenthood established via social welfare boards	Number of joint custody
Year 2024	9,007	6,522 (72 %)	212	146 (69%)
Year 2023	9,972	7,518 (75%)	269	177 (66%)
Year 2022	17,173	13,896 (81%)	330	263 (80%)

Source: Official statistics on family law, MFoF

Facts

Mediation talks are talks held by professionals in order to reach consensus on issues concerning custody, residence, access and livelihood.

Retrieval of information refers to collected information, stated in chapter 6, section 20 of the Parental Code, which the court receives from the social welfare board before an interim decision is made concerning custody, residence or access.

Custody, residence and access investigations are reports that provide the court with a basis for decisions concerning custody, residence or access.

Agreements of custody, residence and access are agreements that are drawn up between parents who agree on custody, residence and access. The agreement becomes legally binding when it is approved by the Social Welfare Committee.

Supervised visitation means that a person assists in the child's visitation with a parent. The court makes a judicial decision on supervised visitation and the social welfare board implements the decision by appointing a person to be custody support.

Home study investigations are investigations according to chapter 6, section 12 of the Social Services Act. Such assessments are conducted for the purpose of giving the social welfare board a basis for decisions on consent for a private home to receive a child from abroad for the purpose of adoption.

Investigations of paternity and parenthood are assessed by the social welfare board in order to determine who the child's other parent is, when the person who gives birth to the child is unmarried. An investigation may concern paternity, parenthood, single parenthood, or fatherhood/motherhood if either or both parents have changed their gender. Paternity and parenthood can be established through acknowledgement or through a judicial decision. Since January 2022, parents have been able to confirm parenthood using an e-service at the Swedish Tax Agency.

Information meetings are talks with parents in conflicts over custody, residence and access, who are considering going to court. The social welfare board is responsible for offering an information meeting. The meeting can be held jointly with both parents or separately. A certificate is issued to parents who participated in information meeting.

More information

Statistics on family law are available on MFoF's webpage. Most of the statistics are available per municipality and/or county.

www.mfof.se/statistik_familjeratt

Contact:

Malin Lundgren

Phone: 010-190 11 05

E-mail: malin.lundgren@mfof.se